



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet California 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$756,361
Forest Legacy	\$2,605,000
Forest Stewardship	\$273,577
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$4,418,706
Urban and Community Forestry	\$1,808,850
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$1,461,701
Total	\$11,324,195

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The cooperative programs are administered and implemented through a partnership between the State of California, the USDA Forest Service and many other private and government entities. These programs promote the health and productivity of California's forest lands, rural economies, and urban forests. Emphasis focuses on timber and other forest products, fuels management, wildlife, water resources, rural economies, conservation practices, and the multiple benefits of urban forests. These programs emphasize an overarching goal of integrated landscape scale management.

Program Goals

- Improve forest resiliency to drought, natural disasters, and to climate change impacts (including wildfire, pest outbreaks, and other disturbances).
- Maintain and improve the health of California's urban and rural forests and related economies.
- Additional goals include: maintaining environmental services from forests (water supply, water quality, clean air, carbon sequestration), reducing wildfire risk to communities in the Wildland Urban Interface, and promoting renewable forest biomass energy and forest products.

Key Issues

- Wildland/Urban Interface fire hazard and fuel reduction issues; increasingly severe wildfires - impacts to communities and ecological impacts.
- Forest health and public safety concerns related to tree mortality.
- The effects of climate change on forests, and the role that reforestation will play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Wildfire behavior – size and burn severity are ongoing issues.
- Rapid urbanization and development in wildland areas.
- Water quality and riparian habitat rehabilitation.
- Organizational staffing capacity and operational challenges associated with increased demand for firefighting and forest management resources.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	37,253,956	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	553
Acres of Forest Land	31,605,908	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	1,882
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	10,101,000	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	1,756
Number of NIPF Landowners	202,000	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	698
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	3,415,464	State Fire Communities Assisted	63
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	21,576,307	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	750	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	480	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	732
Forest Based Employment	101,351	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	33,558,903
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	113,201
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	770,581,815		

Program Highlights**Conservation Education**

Project Learning Tree (PLT), an award-winning environmental education program, has continued to advance K-12 environmental literacy by providing high quality education training and resources for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders despite the impact of COVID-19. After shelter-in-place and social distancing mandates led to the cancellation of several events and workshops, PLT adapted to new techniques and strategies to provide virtual delivery of program initiatives. The program developed a Zoom series titled Tree-mendous Tuesdays featuring PLT activities and presentations on scientific topics for youth audiences. PLT also held many virtual learning opportunities for educators of K-12 students like educator workshops, facilitator workshops, and pre-service teacher courses. This move has led PLT to adjust to the new needs of partners to work collaboratively and support educators who are challenged with providing environmental education opportunities while meeting new school restrictions. In total, PLT has trained 177 preservice students, 229 certified educators, 11 certified facilitators, and attracted over 960 program participants. Throughout the year, four educational conferences and eight meetings were attended by program staff. Due to the retirement of key personnel, the program is currently undergoing transitions in leadership with the anticipation of realignment to 4-H Youth Development and CalNat programs within University of California Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources. California PLT received \$469,765 to continue efforts to expand K-12 student opportunities to deepen their knowledge, awareness, and stewardship of the natural world.

Cooperative Fire Protection

The State Fire Assistance funding has assisted in training approximately 1300 firefighters, funding fire prevention/education/detection programs and aviation, communications and safety equipment upgrades. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program serves approximately 145 rural fire departments and helps to purchase much-needed equipment and supplies. Funding is getting harder for small fire departments to come by and this program assists those rural fire departments in keeping pace with safety, training and equipment updates.

Forest Health Protection

Exotic pests remain the most significant threat to California's forests. Sudden oak death (SOD) is found in 16 counties infecting over 100 species. SOD was found in Del Norte County at the northern end of the range of the disease for the first time. Genetic analysis showed that it was the European strain of the disease not previously found in wildlands in California. Gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) continued to spread in southern California with an ever-expanding zone of infestation. All of Orange County, all

wooded parts of San Diego County and expanded areas of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties are now infested. Invasive shot hole borers (ISHB) are found in eight southern California counties attacking over 300 species and reproducing in over 60 woody hosts. A Zone of Infestation has been declared in those counties where susceptible hosts are found. The Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) was discovered infesting white oak species in Napa, Sonoma and Lake Counties with a satellite infestation in Sacramento County. Native pests also remain a concern. Aerial surveys were impossible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but bark and engraver beetle activity continued throughout the Sierra Nevada and other areas at reduced rates. CAL FIRE staff assist in early detection/rapid response and assist the public on native and exotic forest pests on state and private lands. Staff serves on the California Forest Pest Council and its task forces, the CA Invasive Species Advisory Committee, and the national Forest Health Monitoring Management Team. Staff review timber harvest plans and grant proposals and respond to requests from the public. Staff hold training events on forest pests for various public and private entities. Surveys include 17,500 acres for Douglas fir tussock moth, 1,500,000 acres for SOD (aerial and stream), 800,000 acres GSOB, 2000 acres ISHB, 2000 acres for MOB and 5000 acres general pest evaluations.

Forest Legacy

In Fiscal year 19/20 the federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP) completed and closed eight projects in Northern California. These projects totaled 28,511 acres and represent a total investment of \$17.9 million. These projects represented threatened family forestlands and commercial forestlands under pressure of development and conversion with a bonus of two of the projects adding old growth redwood forests and public access to the Arcata and Eureka Community Forests in the North Coast. Complete funding is near for two other projects, Mailliard and Grizzly Creek, funded at \$6.2 million and \$2.1 million respectively. Work is underway to close both of those projects now. For federal fiscal year 2022, California forwarded three projects for National funding consideration totaling over \$10 million. California has conserved over 150,000 acres through the FLP. In 2020 we plan to close at least four of our open projects and have three additional working forest conservation easement projects using state funds underway, that will put us well over the 160,000 acre mark. California will continue to solicit, rank and forward projects to the federal Forest Legacy program for consideration at the National level.

Forest Stewardship

The federal Forest Stewardship Program and Forest Health Management Program in combination with California's Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) provided valuable technical assistance and funds for Stewardship Planning, timber stand improvement, forest rehabilitation, reforestation and fuels reduction. The funding allows many landowners to work with California Registered Professional Foresters to develop Stewardship plans to help them achieve their management goals. CAL FIRE is utilizing the California Cooperative Forest Management Plan template which will satisfy multiple program requirements and allow a landowner to produce one plan that qualifies for a variety of State and Federal cost-share funding. In addition, the USDA-CAL FIRE programs have provided a broad scope of educational forums including the Forest Landowner Stewardship Curriculum, the quarterly Forestland Steward Newsletter that reaches over 7000 readers via hard and electronic copies. A new program, launched in 2019 in partnership with the University of California Extension office, continues to provide three-day workshops for forestland owners who want to learn about writing their own forestland management plan. These workshops are being conducted across the State and provide two days of intensive, on-site training in forestry, wildlife, watershed health and wildfire resilience. The landowners are then given time to return home and complete some aspects of their plan. On the third day of the workshop, one week later, they return to have one on one time with a Registered Professional Forester who helps them with any key issues on their property. Much of this process was adapted following COVID social distancing guidelines and has been able to persist.

Landowner Assistance

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is the State's primary landowner assistance program providing eligible landowners with technical and financial assistance. CFIP's purpose is to encourage private and public investments in forest lands and resources within the state to ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and to protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations. In fiscal year 2019/2020 the program provided \$6 million in grants to landowners for management plans, fuel hazard reduction projects, and forest thinning projects. CFIP is a forestry cost-share program that provides funds to non-industrial private forest landowners with ownerships of less than 5000 acres of timberland for a

variety of practices including: management plans, supervision, site preparation, planting, thinning, pruning, release, land conservation, improvement of fish and wildlife habitat and fuels reduction. Since its establishment CFIP has helped landowners with forest improvement activities on over 1,000,000 acres. In 2020, CAL FIRE developed another tool to deliver assistance to landowners that can be implemented simultaneously with CFIP funding. The purpose of the Wildfire Resilience Grant is to provide a program of financial and technical forestry assistance to nonindustrial forest landowners, where the grantee serves as the project lead and provides forest management technical and financial assistance to landowners. This program grant opportunity is crafted to be flexible for meeting the emerging needs of private forestland landowners. This grant program can fund smaller parcels and some practices not usually granted under other funding mechanisms. 2020 was the first round of grants made using Proposition 68 funds and CAL FIRE received \$10 million in applications to provide assistance to over 8,000 acres of private forestland.

Landscape Scale Restoration

CAL FIRE is working to protect and manage California forests so they can continue to provide benefits and so that we can reduce impacts of climate change on forests. The Forest Health Program funds CAL FIRE and partners to complete landscape scale management activities that achieve the goals of the Forest Carbon Plan, California's Natural and Working Lands goals, and California's climate goals as defined by the Global Warming Solutions Act. A summary of these goals is to conserve forests and restore forest health by significantly increasing fuels reduction, fire reintroduction, treatment of degraded areas and conservation of threatened forests with landscape-scale projects developed and led by regionally-based efforts. These projects must have calculated climate benefits that account for reduced greenhouse gas emissions from avoided future wildfire and fossil fuel use, and/or sequestering carbon through reforestation or increased growth and yield of remaining vegetation. This program shares a funding source with the Fire Prevention Grant Program, which funds smaller projects to protect structures. Together, the two programs will spend \$165 million this fiscal year.

Urban and Community Forestry

The CAL FIRE U&CF Program has forged strong partnerships with local governments and non-profits to advance its objectives. At 95% of the population considered urban, and with some of the largest population centers in the U.S., California has a great need for urban and community forestry. California funded 22 new grants in fiscal year 19/20 for approximately \$18.6 million. California continues to invest in urban and community forestry at a high rate. \$6.6 million in state funding is available to the program from state bond funds in the current (20/21) fiscal year, with additional cap and trade auction revenue funds expected in the spring and again next fiscal year. There is a continued emphasis on serving disadvantaged communities with state funds. This is a good match for the program given that analysis has shown a strong relationship between disadvantaged status and lack of urban forest tree canopy cover. State funded grants are used for tree planting and care, urban forest management plans, inventories, local policies and ordinances, tree canopy analysis, educational projects, and urban wood utilization. Staff continues to spend a lot of time overseeing state funded grants and working with grantees. They also participate in educational and public events, including arbor day events. They provide a great deal of technical and policy assistance to local governments, non-profits, and private companies as well. Federal grant funds are utilized to support an urban forestry education and outreach position, as well as for partnerships and priority projects. Projects are primarily for educational projects and projects that build overall urban forestry capacity in California, such as technological tools and best management practices and guidelines. The program also works on integrating urban forestry activity and policy throughout state government. The program's advisory committee has completed updating the program strategic plan and it is being implemented.

Contact Information



California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection

Thomas Porter
State Forester
P.O. Box 944246
1416 9th Street, Rm. 1505
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
916-653-7772
thomas.porter@fire.ca.gov

US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region

Kathleen Stearns Friday
Forest Legacy/Stewardship Program Manager
USDA Forest Service
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
808-785-5197
kathleen.friday@usda.gov
